The Arc of an Effective Unit

Date: November 3rd, 2014
Time: 5pm - 7:30pm

Objectives:

- Participants will discuss how to integrate formative assessment into their unit planning.

Agenda:

1. Introduction to the a2i Arc of a Unit
2. Prepare by doing math together
3. Look at the core content of the unit
4. Deciding on critical teaching tasks during the unit
5. Debrief the night

Other Useful Resources:

- Science lesson resources: http://livingenvironment.newvisions.org/
- Re-engagement lessons: http://wees.it/reengagement
- Lesson planning for the Common Core: Peg Smith on How to Implement a High-level Task
- Activity structures: Instructional activities
- Connect with other math & science teachers: Join the Math Twitter Blogosphere!
- Link to this agenda: http://wees.it/mfa3
- Unit schematic and rationale: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iB4yqfxw3zIEW8WEUSCXrefPGUlZYWfzDbi9h4hvvWY/edit

Detailed agenda:

Time	Activity	Materials needed
2 minutes	**Introduction to the evening**	
5 minutes	**Write:** 1. What do you include in your unit plans? 2. What are the questions you think about? 3. What is your process (how do you start, what is your flow of thinking)?	
5 minutes	**Pair** Discuss your process with a partner.	
5 minutes	**Share** Discuss the similarities and differences as a whole group. Keep track of similarities and differences on chart paper.	
75 minutes	**Backwards design** ● Do the task ○ Part of your group does the initial task ○ Part of your group does the final task ● Identify the core mathematics ○ Each person then independently lists all of the mathematics that could be relevant to doing this task (and ideally articulates the relevant math practices as well). ○ Each group then makes a complete list of all of the mathematics that could be relevant for their task using sticky notes. ○ Each group then posts their poster up on the wall for the other part of their group to look at.	

	○ Next, each group moves the stickies from the other group's poster to the appropriate locations on the Venn diagram. ● Plan teaching this unit ○ Based on the mathematics present on the Venn diagram, make some decisions on how you might teach this unit. ○ Look through our unit plan on the website (for Algebra I, Unit 1). How does this extend your plan for teaching this unit?	
20 minutes	**a2i Unit planning** ● Read the a2i Unit Plan rationale document ● Based on the a2i Unit Plan rationale document, what similarities or differences do you notice between your unit planning and our unit plan rationale?	Unit plan rationale a2i website
13 minutes	**Final debrief and next steps**	